

Dear Friend,

The uncertainty caused by the coronavirus outbreak has created new and unique struggles, especially for veterans. I am reaching out today to share some resources that may be useful in assisting you to navigate these uncertainties and get the care and benefits you need and deserve.

Since coming to Congress in 2017, one of my top priorities has been making sure that the federal government keeps its promises to our brave veterans who have made innumerable sacrifices for our country. I remain committed to ensuring that Arizona's veterans are able to access the best possible care, resources, and benefits—especially during this public health crisis.

Late last month, I voted to pass the CARES Act, a legislative package that includes \$19.57 billion in funding to ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has the equipment, tests, telehealth capabilities and support services necessary to support veterans and our health care workforce at facilities nationwide. More information on the CARES Act can be found on my website, HERE.

Get answers to your questions or more information:

FAQS answered by the VA, HERE.

Veterans can also visit the VA's coronavirus Public Health page, <u>HERE</u>.

Get assistance with health care:

To better serve and protect the health care of Arizona veterans, the three VA Health Care Systems in Arizona (Phoenix, Prescott, and Tucson) have implemented comprehensive protocols and screening measures dealing with COVID-19. Anyone with questions is encouraged to call or send a direct message via MyHealthVet to their health care team.

- For Maricopa Valley/ Phoenix Area call (602) 277-5551 or visit https://www.phoenix.va.gov.
- For Prescott/ Northern Arizona Area call (928) 445-4860 or visit https://www.prescott.va.gov.
- For Tucson/Southern Arizona call (520) 792-1450 or visit https://www.tucson.va.gov.

Get assistance with mental health care:

If you are a veteran experiencing a mental health crisis:

- Call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and PRESS 1, text: 838255, support for deaf or hard of hearing: 1-800-799-4889.
 - Or chat online at https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/.

If you are a Servicemember, National Guard member, Reservist, or a family member in crisis:

- Call the Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and PRESS 1, text 838255, support for deaf or hard of hearing: 1-800-799-4889.
 - Or chat online at https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/military-crisis-line

In Maricopa County / Central Arizona:

- Crisis Response Network: (602) 222-9444 or (800) 631-1314.
- La Frontera EMPACT 24-hour Crisis Hotline: (480) 784-1500 or (800) 273-8255.
- Rally Point Crisis Line: (855) 725-5948.

In Northern Arizona:

• Crisis Response Network: (877) 756-4090.

In Southern Arizona:

- Community-wide Crisis Line: (520) 622-6000.
- Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yuma Counties or on the San Carlos Apache Reservation: **(866) 495-6735**.

VA Debt Relief

On April 3, 2020, the VA announced actions to extend financial relief to veterans, including:

- Suspending all actions on veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department.
- Suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, as the veteran prefers.

For benefit debts, veterans can contact the VA Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648.

For health care debts, veterans can contact the Health Resource Center at 1-888-827-4817.

Get assistance with GI Benefits:

If GI Bill users have questions about their benefits, contact the Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551 between 8AM and 7PM Eastern Time, Monday-Friday.

As always, my staff and I are here to serve you. I have a dedicated COVID-19 section of my website, with information on everything from unemployment to nutrition assistance. Visit my website, <u>HERE.</u>

If you'd like to contact any of my offices or need assistance with the VA or another federal agency, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can use the contact information at the bottom of this message.

Together, as Americans, we will get through this.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Halleran

Contact information:

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